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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Switzerland/Egypt/Italy

DATE DISTR. 27 January 1949

SUBJECT Sale of Swiss Army Surplus Materiel

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ACQUIRENO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In the fall of 1947, a large stock of arms and ammunition was declared surplus materiel in Switzerland and cleared for sale abroad. Various persons applied for the arms concession and subsequently received detailed lists of the arms which were being cleared for sale by the Swiss Military Department through its technical division (Kriegstechnische Abteilung). The prices quoted in the attachment are those listed by a middleman, a certain Haenger in Basel.
2. The following persons were involved in the sale of these weapons and ammunition during the period June to September 1948:
 - a. Haenger (fmu), Basel
 - b. Brenner (fmu)
 - c. Eugenio Plozza, Lugano
 - d. Dr. Hans-Werner Widmer, Zurich
 - e. Ernst Hafner, Zurich
 - f. Venturi (fmu) a former Italian Minister of Transportation during the Fascist regime)
 - g. Dr. Paul Weidhart, Bahnhofstrasse 72, Zurich
 - h. Leuthard (fmu), Zurich
 - i. Pfannmutter (fmu), Lucerne or Beckenried (Lake Lucerne)
3. Haenger obtained a concession for the sale of the arms from the Militarisches Department, Kriegstechnische Abteilung. He employed a number of middlemen and gave them copies of the offer with the added increase in prices. In August 1948, Plozza and Dr. Widmer went to Rome as sales representatives. In the course of the ensuing negotiations, Plozza and Widmer established contact with Leuthard and Pfannmutter who introduced a group of Arabs as buyers. Leuthard and Pfannmutter had been in Egypt and had concluded an agreement with an Egyptian governmental agency, on the basis of which they were to purchase arms and ammunition for the Egyptians. During the negotiations in Rome, various stocks of weapons and ammunition were placed on sale in Rome and other cities. Among others, the Beretta arms factory offered the following stocks of arms and ammunition for sale:

- a. Thompson submachine guns 2000
 - b. Machine guns 1000
- including 5,000,000 and 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition respectively.

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Venturi and Plozza handled the Beretta bids. Venturi attempted to rid himself of Plozza and the other parties in order to deal directly with the Arabs. After three or four weeks, the Arabs, after inspection of the materiel, found out who was involved in the negotiations and put an end to the entire affair. No transactions were concluded.

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4. [REDACTED] the following are dealing in arms and ammunition:

- a. Werner Degoli, Lugano; works for Firma Loehrer, Sankt Gallen which represents the Henry Schuette company in Brussels. [REDACTED] Comment: Available reference material lists Gebrueder Loehrer, Buchdruckerei, St. Gallen, and H.R. Schutte, produits industriels, rue E. Claus 2, Brussels.)
- b. Plozza and Polla, Lugano. They have good connections with weapons dealers in Tangiers, North Africa, Spain, and Italy.
- c. Jean R. Baumann, 31 chemin de Chandieu, (sic) Lausanne, Tel: 3 93 55. [REDACTED] Comment: Available reference material here lists a Jean R. Baumann, import-export., 12 chemin des Bruyeres, Tel: 2 93 55.)

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